

## **ANIMAL ADVISORY DURING SEVERE WINTER WEATHER**

Waukesha County Humane Officers are advising animal owners to take extra steps to protect their animals during cold weather.

- Be sure to have an insulated, windproof shelter available for outdoor animals to use. Hay bales and tarps can help insulate pens.
- Ask your veterinarian if it would be appropriate to increase your outdoor pet's food intake in the winter. Keeping warm depletes energy stores.
- Consider making water available outside through the use of a heated water bowl. Bowls for food and water should be plastic. Your pet's tongue could freeze to a metal bowl.
- If the outside animals are very young, very old or in poor health, it might be safest to bring them into a garage or breezeway area. If they are used to being outside, the heated living area of your home may be too warm for them. Make sure if you do bring them in, that the area is safe, and free of toxins such as antifreeze.

### **Signs of Hypothermia and Frostbite in Animals**

- Weakness or unresponsiveness
- Extreme shivering
- Pale or blue mucous membranes
- extremities (ears, tail, paws) cold to the touch or discolored pale patches: hard to see through fur.
- unconsciousness
- body temperature under 95 degrees

**Severe hypothermia can result in longterm medical problems and death.**

Waukesha County's Humane Officers remind you to plan ahead for severe winter weather. If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact us at: 262-896-8300. For emergencies, call your local law enforcement.